

The Athenian Mercury.

Tuesday, November 19. 1695.

Quest. 1. **I**N this following affair wherein I have a dear friend concerned, who is inclined to be perswaded by me; I am not satisfied to give my advice before I have your Judgments concerning it, which if you'll favour me with, 'twill be a great obligation to many, who interest themselves in the happiness of my friend, she being a person of great merit. I think it necessary to give you a short account of her Misfortunes, because, Peradventure the Circumstances of 'em may incline you more to take her part.

She is an only Daughter to a Gentleman of a good Estate, who has made best part of his Estate over to his second and youngest Son, requiring the younger to pay her fortune out of his dividend, which was to be a very considerable one, and is secured to her upon bond and Judgment, but the father keeps the writings from her, and puts off several very considerable Matches, and will give her no Fortune; her Father sent to Town by the hands of this youngest Brother a hundred pound to be put into the late Million Lottery for her, which her Brother unworthily cheated her of, pretending the Lottery was full before he got to Town, which she coming to Town a little after found to be false, and that he had an opportunity to do it, tho' he wou'd not, but spent it on his own extravagant occasions, and to this day she has had no reparation made her, altho' he own'd the fault, and gave her his bond to repay it upon demand, or else allow her as much advantage for it, as if it had been Blanks in the Lottery. I desire to know if a redress may not be had for these things, or if it be not lawful for the Gentlewoman to make her Fortune under her Father, as she has been often perswaded by her Friends, she having an opportunity by keeping all her Fathers Moneys, to take as much as her Father gave her, and let him afterwards retake it of the Brother; tho' this advice the Lady always rejects, notwithstanding her Fathers repeated unkindness, who has by his means for this two seven years binder'd her of very extraordinary husbands, he disappoints her in all her undertakings, yet she remains dutiful, and her youngest Brother is so imprudent and extravagant that 'tis to be fear'd, that if the Father wou'd be willing she shou'd have her Fortune, that in a little time he will not be able to pay it, since probably his ruine daily approaches; therefore is not the Father in Duty bound to take care of this Child, and if he does not, what must she do?

Answ. The Poor Ladies case is indeed very hard, but we see no help for her, except she can by any means prevail upon the Father to be more Just to her, which is his Duty, since a Parent is not only obliged in Conscience to take care of the being, provide necessaries for a Child, but also of its well being, and to make it as happy as he can, without injuring himself or his other Children. 'Tis true, something is due to

custom in respect to the Dividends made to children, but respect being had to that, their merit is next to be considered; and the Lady seems by the Relation to deserve better from the Father than this Son whom he ruines her for, therefore he wou'd be both unkind and unjust too to make no better provision for her: Yet however, if he can't be perswaded to do his Duty towards her, she ought to do hers towards him, and cannot lawfully redress her self by secretly taking any thing from her Father, since it wou'd be a cheat in her so to do. If she has her Brothers bond for the hundred pounds, she may recover that, tho' if her Father will be kind to her, she will do well to consult him about it.

Quest. 2. I desire you to resolve me this following question. Not long since one of my acquaintance held an argument with me, to this purpose; that our Saviour Jesus did not suffer for all men, to which he brought in these words, which Jesus said in St. John, Chap. the 17. and the 9. verse. I Pray for them, I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine, &c.

Answ. Our Saviour by the world, there, means such as wou'd not receive his Doctrine, but pursue the vanities of this world; which only intimates his special care about those who wou'd be his Disciples, and does not exclude any, who will accept the conditions, as is plain, by Rom. 5. v. 18. As by the offence of one Judgment came upon all Men to Condemnation, so by the righteousness of one, the free gift came upon all Men unto Justification of Life.

Quest. 3. By what motive and under what Commander did the Spaniards formerly make their attempt upon Africa, and what was the reason they proceeded no farther in their Conquest?

Answ. The design was formed, carried on, and ended by Cardinal Ximenes; who was a Man of a vast and powerful Genius, and continually undertaking great things; he had drawn up the Plann of a league betwixt the Kings of Spain, England, and Portugal, to go and Conquer the Holy Land; but having considered the impossibility of uniting these three Monarchs, he bethought himself of going against the Moors in Africa, that by that means he might plant his Religion amongst them; he proposed this design to Ferdinand, who was then King of Spain, but the King did not like it so well as the Prelate, and refused to engage himself in a War the success whereof was so doubtful. Upon which the Cardinal only desired his consent, offering that he wou'd be at

th:

the whole charge of the War, and that the advantage of it shou'd all redound to the Crown. This proposition *Ferdinand* accepted, tho' every one was surprized at it, and thought it very singular that the primate of Spain shou'd become a general, and that a religious man shou'd pretend to manage a War, which to be sure he had very little skill in, and such an one too that the King had excus'd himself from. Some thought that *Ferdinand* being tired with the Cardinal's Imperiousness, had a design to consume him by Fatigues, and to render him ridiculous by the ill success he foresaw wou'd attend this expedition; tho' tis plain twas all owing to the Cardinal, since the King lookt upon it to be a great temerity in a subject to conceive such designs, and that this thought of conquering Africa, was too ambitious in him. That if he shou'd have the good fortune to return a conquerour, it wou'd reflect shame upon the King, that he durst not undertake what a subject had executed; but if the Cardinal shou'd be overcome, he wou'd leave the youth of Spain to the mercy of the Africans. So that being shaken with these resolutions, he cooled all or a suddain, and without revoking his consent in formal terms, he shewed the Cardinal his dislike of it, and obstacles he perceived in the way; but this Holy Father was so animated by his Zeal, that no reasons against it seemed good to him; the difficulty, instead of stopping him, made him redouble his efforts and application; he writ to, and continually solicited the King, and earnestly prest to be embarkt, that he might be no longer exposed to such irresolutions: he effected it, and arrived happily in Africk; He went at the head of his Army himself, Cloathed with his Pontifical habits, accompanied with a great number of Religious men, who wore a sword and belt upon Cordeliers habit; In this posture he harangued his Souldiers, in sight of the Town of Oran, which he intended first to attack; He told them that it being the cause of God which they had undertaken, it belonged to his Episcopal function to encourage them, to plant the standard of the Crois every where. The Novelty of the Spectacle at first pleased his Army, and after having kneel'd down to receive his blessing, they marcht to the Enemie's, with a great Zeal and Confidence that he had inspired them with; he by gaining the place was highly pleased; and made a fearful slaughter of the Infidels, for having told the Souldiers they were Enemies to Religion, they cut the throats of them all without any distinction. After this the Cardinal deliberated, whether or no he shou'd then go further into Africk;

but the dissatisfaction of his Captains, who disdained to march under the command of a Monk, which crown'd himself with Laurels, that cost him nothing but harangues and blessings, and the Jealousies of Ferdinand who envied his Glory, obliged him to return into Spain, and to put an end to this Enterprize.

Quest 4. A young Man being an apprentice, and having served about half his time, hath a very fair opportunity to marry much to his advantage; would you advise such an one to take opportunity by the Fore top, or to let her go and say he cannot marry because he is an Apprentice?

Gentlemen, Pray favour me with a speedy Answer.

Ans^w. Fair and Gently, Lad; marriage is no foot ball play, but perhaps you might begin your Apprentiship at twenty, or twenty five; then, if your friends consent, we give you leave to marry: Tho if at the common age the case will be altered, and what you think a fortune may be none to you: few men till some years above twenty, know either how to govern themselves, choose a wife, or set a true value upon Money. Not one marriage in five hundred, made before twenty five, or there abouts, proves happy; such a wife as the boy loves, the Man has reason to dislike; three or four thousand pound is worth no more to him, than as many hundreds, when he is come to understand the world better; therefore we believe if you'll follow our advice, and not marry till you are older and wiser, you'll somyeears hence look upon your self as much obliged to us for it, as many of the rest of our loving querists.

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